

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 642

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Greg Pierce for being named one of the American Cancer Society's Heroes of Hope for the Mid-South.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who have courageously battled life threatening illnesses and can proudly call themselves survivors, offering hope and inspiration to their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable survivor is Greg Pierce who was recently named one of the American Cancer Society's Heroes of Hope for the Mid-South; and

WHEREAS, one of only twenty cancer survivors and caregivers selected for this distinguished honor, Mr. Pierce was chosen because of his extraordinary triumph over cancer, his significant volunteer contributions to the American Cancer Society, and the lasting impact he has made on the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, the highly-respected owner and operator of a local landscaping business, Greg Pierce found that his road to recovery was a hard fought one, yet he persevered through three separate encounters with cancer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pierce was originally diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma in 1988, and after a full year of treatments, was declared cancer-free, only to see the cancer re-appear six months later; and

WHEREAS, possessing an indomitable spirit, Greg Pierce bravely underwent another year of grueling treatments to destroy the disease; and

WHEREAS, the unimaginable ensued in October of 2008 when Mr. Pierce noticed a sore spot behind his ear and immediately realized that the dreaded illness had returned; and

WHEREAS, this time the diagnosis was squamous cell carcinoma, a form of skin cancer that must be treated with an extremely difficult and risky surgery; and

WHEREAS, after having twenty-eight lymph nodes removed through his neck and undergoing a series of twenty-five exhausting radiation treatments, Mr. Pierce was finally declared cancer-free in April of 2009; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately the devastating effects of cancer had not yet finished taking its toll on his family; Mr. Pierce had to witness his father, Max Pierce, die from prostate cancer in 2010 and his mother, Wanda Jeannine Pierce, lose her fight with lung cancer less than a year later; and

WHEREAS, displaying the unrelenting spirit that is characteristic of a true Tennessean, Greg Pierce decided to devote himself to fighting this deadly disease by volunteering his time and tremendous talents with the Relay for Life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pierce is an extremely talented and compassionate person whose life lessons on service, determination, and recovery truly serve as an inspiration to his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Greg Pierce's dedication to excellence and display of courage and perseverance is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Greg Pierce for being named one of the American Cancer Society's Heroes of Hope for the Mid-South, applaud him for boldly battling and surviving cancer, and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.